

Mission:

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.

**Rick Scott**

Governor

John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS

State Surgeon General & Secretary

Vision: To be the **Healthiest State** in the Nation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 13, 2014

Contact: Charles Griggs
904-253-1004

*****Rabies Alert*****

JACKSONVILLE, FL – Duval County's first rabies alert of the year has been issued for the Arlington area of Jacksonville. The alert is in effect through October 8, 2014.

The rabies alert area is bordered on the south by Woodpine Drive at Donnawood Drive, on the north by Leon Road at Atlantic Boulevard, on the west by Ivey Road at Hidden Village Drive, and east by Alden Road at Alden Trace Boulevard West.

The alert follows the discovery of a rabid cat in the Arlington area of Jacksonville. After further investigation it has been determined that human exposure was involved in this alert. As a precaution, pet owners should maintain control of their pets at all times, and be certain that each has received current rabies immunization shots from a licensed veterinarian.

An animal with rabies could infect other wild animals or domestic animals that have not been vaccinated against rabies. All domestic animals should be vaccinated against rabies and all wildlife contact should be avoided, particularly raccoons, bats, foxes, skunks, otters, bobcats and coyotes. Rabies is a disease of the nervous system and is fatal to warm blooded animals and humans. The only treatment for human exposure to rabies is rabies specific immune globulin and rabies immunization. Appropriate treatment started soon after the exposure will protect an exposed person from the disease.

The following advice is issued:

- Keep rabies vaccinations up to date for all pets.
- If your pet is bitten by a wild animal, seek veterinary assistance for the animal immediately and contact The Florida Department of Health in Duval County at (904) 253-1280.
- Call your local animal control agency to remove any stray animals from your neighborhood.
- **Do not** handle, feed, or unintentionally attract wild animals by leaving pet food outside, or garbage cans open.
- **Never** adopt wild animals or bring them into your home.
- Teach children **never** to handle unfamiliar animals, wild or domestic, even if they appear friendly.
- Prevent bats from entering living quarters or occupied spaces in homes, churches, schools, and other similar areas, where they might come in contact with people and pets.
- Persons who have been bitten or scratched by wild or domestic animals should seek medical attention and report the injury to the Florida Department of Health in Duval County at (904) 253-1280.

For further information on rabies, go to the Florida Department of Health website: <http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/rabies/index.html>, contact Florida Department of Health in Duval County, (904)253-1280, or contact Animal Care and Protective Services (904) 630-CITY(2489).

Florida Department of Health in Duval County

Communications & Community Engagement
900 University Boulevard, North, MC-40 • Jacksonville, FL 32211
PHONE: 904/253-1470 • FAX 904/253-2428 www.dchd.net

www.FloridasHealth.com

TWITTER:HealthyFLA
FACEBOOK:FLDepartmentofHealth
YOUTUBE: fldoh

